

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4129
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 05085

USIA FOR IEU COHEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG, PFOR
SUBJECT: NPG - PRESS REPORTS ON CRUISE MISSILE STUDY

1. GUARDIAN OF JUNE 9 CARRIES DAVID HAWORTH STORY FROM
OTTAWA HEADLINED QUOTE NATO READY TO USE DOOMSDAY NUCLEAR
WEAPON UNQUOTE. BULK OF STORY REPORTS ON DEFENCE
MINISTER'S DISCUSSION OF CRUISE MISSILE AND STATES QUOTE
THE MINISTERS ARE TO AUTHORIZE A SERIES OF STUDIES WHICH
WILL INDICATE HOW BEST TO DEPLOY THIS WEAPON IN EUROPE
FROM 1980 ONWARDS - UNLESS THE SALT TALKS ARE FRUITFUL
UNQUOTE.

2. FINANCIAL TIMES OF JUNE 10 CARRIES NEWS REPORT (WHICH
APPEARS TO BE BASED ON JUNE 9 REUTERS DESPATCH FROM OTTAWA)
DATELINED JUNE 9 FROM OTTAWA HEADLINED QUOTE NATO CRUISE
INQUIRY UNQUOTE STATING QUOTE NATO DEFENCE MINISTERS HAVE
ORDERED THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPERTS TO COMPLETE TOP
SECRET STUDIES ON WHETHER THE ALLIANCE SHOULD SEND
AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILES TO WESTERN EUROPE UNQUOTE.
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REPORT CONTINUES THAT MINISTERS QUOTE WANT THE STUDIES BY
OCTOBER WHEN THEY PROBABLY WOULD BE PRESENTED FOR CONSID-
ERATION BY THE ALLIANCE'S TOP POLITICAL BODY, THE
BRUSSELS' BASED NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL UNQUOTE.
3. FULL TEXT OF FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: NATO DEFENCE MINISTERS HAVE ORDERED THEIR

NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPERTS TO COMPLETE TOP SECRET STUDIES
ON WHETHER THE ALLIANCE SHOULD SEND AMERICAN CRUISE
MISSILES TO WESTERN EUROPE.

INFORMED NATO SOURCES SAID THAT THE MINISTERS WANT THE
STUDIES BY OCTOBER, WHEN THEY PROBABLY WOULD BE PRESENTED
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ALLIANCE'S TOP POLITICAL BODY,
THE BRUSSELS-BASED NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.

THE EIGHT MINISTERS, MEETING AS NATO'S NUCLEAR PLANNING
GROUP, WHICH PREPARES PLANS FOR HOW THE ALLIANCE WOULD
FIGHT A NUCLEAR WAR, END THEIR TWO-DAY SESSION HERE LATER
TODAY.

THE SOURCES SAID THAT FRANCE, WHICH DOES NOT BELONG TO
THE GROUP BUT WHICH IS ONE OF THE ALLIANCE'S THREE
NUCLEAR POWERS, WANTED DISCUSSIONS ON THE CRUISE TO BE
TAKEN AWAY FROM THE EIGHT-MEMBER GROUP AND INSTEAD PRE-
SENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF ALL 15 NATO NATIONS, INCLUDING
FRANCE.

THE JET-POWERED CRUISE MISSILE IS VIRTUALLY UNDETECTABLE
BY AN ENEMY, CARRIES A NUCLEAR WARHEAD, AND HAS CONSIDER-
ABLE ACCURATELY.
LAST NOVEMBER, THE MINISTERS THREATENED
TO BRING THE WEAPON TO EUROPE FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT
OF FIVE NEW SOVIET NUCLEAR-TIPPED BALLISTIC MISSILES.

OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE U.S. PRSO A PAPER TO THE
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ALLIANCE SETTING OUT HOW THE DRIL WHICH CAN BE
LAUNCHED FROM AIRCRAFT, SHWS, OR FROM THE GROUND, COULD
BE USED IN EUROPE. THEY SAID THAT THE SECRET DOCUMENT
SET OUT POSSIBLE CRUISE TARGETS, WHEN IT SHOULD BE USED,
AND EVEN HOW MANY WOULD BE NEEDED AGAINST SPECIFIC
TARGETS. -- REUTER. END TEXT.

4. IN EXPECTATION OF ADDITIONAL QUERIES, REQUEST PRESS
GUIDANCE THAT WE ALSO COULD SHARE WITH NATO SPOKESMAN
ON SENSITIVE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE, WHICH TENDS TO BE
TOP ISSUE IN EUROPEAN PRESS COVERAGE OF AND COMMENT
ON NPG MEETING.

5. FOR OTTAWA: WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT OF SYG LUNS PRESS
CONFERENCE IF CANADIANS TAPED IT. STREATOR

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